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Apprentice (video game)

Apprentice is a point-and-click adventure game released on Windows by American studio Herculean Effort Productions as freeware in 2003. It was created using the open source development tool, Adventure Game Studio.

Apprentice	
Developer	Herculean Effort Productions
Publisher	Herculean Effort Productions
Series	*Apprentice*
Engine	Adventure Game Studio
Platform	Windows
Release	July 10, 2003
Genre	Point-and-click adventure

Gameplay

The player controls Mortimer "Pib" Pibsworth, a young apprentice dreaming of becoming a wizard. The game opens with a dream sequence where he is confronted by Lord Ironcrow, the region's ruler. Lord Ironcrow tries to persuade Pib to become a soldier, but Pib's refusal leads him to wake up, screaming. His teacher then checks on Pib and informs him that before he can learn his first spell, he must find the necessary ingredients.

Development and release

The game began as a side project while the developers worked on *The Find*, introducing the player to the game world and some of its characters. Therefore, the game was criticised for its short length and a lack of any real storyline. Furthermore, the dream sequence at the beginning of the game bears no relevance to the rest of the game. Nevertheless, *Apprentice* was praised for its high production values and is even mentioned as a good example of a game created with Adventure Game Studio in the book *Gaming Hacks* published by O'Reilly Media.[1] The game won four *AGS Awards* in 2003 for Best Room Art, Best Character Art, Best Animation and Best Music.

The first version of *Apprentice* was released on July 10, 2003. The first bug fix version, which also added a bonus puzzle to the game, was released on the 28th. Two years later, on May 29, 2005, HEP released a *Deluxe* version of the game, which improved animations and music and added voice overs to the game.

The *Apprentice* series is planned as a trilogy. The sequel *Apprentice II: The Knight's Move* was released on July 29, 2004. The release date of the last game in the series, *Apprentice III: Checkmate!* is unknown.

Herculean Effort Productions also released a commercial superhero point-and-click adventure game called *Super Jazz Man* (https://web.archive.org/web/20070510205225/http://www.manifestogames.com/superjazzman) on December 21, 2006.

References

1. O Reilly's Gaming Hacks index: Apprentice (http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/gaminghks/inx.html) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20070309130546/http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/gaminghks/inx.html) 2007-03-09 at the Wayback Machine cited 15 December 2006

External links

- Herculean Effort Productions (http://www.herculeaneffort.com/)
- Information about and free download of *Apprentice I* (original, not Deluxe edition) (http://www.adventuregamestudio.co.uk/site/games/game/250/) on AdventureGameStudio.co.uk (home of Adventure Game Studio)
- Information about and free download of *Apprentice I* Deluxe (http://www.adventuregamestudio.co.uk/site/games/game/570/) on AdventureGameStudio.co.uk
- Information about and free download of *Apprentice II: The Knight's Move* (http://www.adventuregamestudio.co.uk/site/games/game/435/) on AdventureGameStudio.co.uk
- Information about Herculean Effort Productions and their video games (https://www.giantbomb.com/herculean-effort-productions/3010-502/) on GiantBomb.com
- Information about Herculean Effort Productions (http://www.reloaded.org/Herculean-Effort-Productions/Company15/) and reviews of *Apprentice I* (http://www.reloaded.org/download/Apprentice/35/) and *Apprentice II* (http://www.reloaded.org/download/Apprentice-2-Knights-Move/139/) on Reloaded.org
- *Apprentice* Deluxe review (https://web.archive.org/web/20061206053340/http://www.adventurelantern.com/Reviews/apprentice/apprentice.htm) at Adventure Lantern
- *Apprentice II* review (https://web.archive.org/web/20061206054130/http://www.adventurelantern.com/reviews/apprentice2/apprentice2.htm) at Adventure Lantern
- *Apprentice II* review (https://web.archive.org/web/20061116224543/http://www.bonafidereviews.com/article.php?id=14) at Bonafide Reviews
- *Apprentice* Deluxe review (https://gnomeslair.blogspot.com/2006/01/pc-review-apprentice-deluxe.html) at Gnome's Lair
- *Apprentice* and *Apprentice II* mentioned (https://web.archive.org/web/20070321202349/http://nintendo.about.com/library/adventure/bladventure1.htm) on About.com
- *Apprentice* 2003 awards (http://www.americangirlscouts.org/AGSAwards/2003.htm) at AGS
- *Apprentice* 2003 nominations (https://web.archive.org/web/20041222104311/http://www.adventuregamers.com/article/id,339/) at Adventure Gamers
- *Apprentice II* 2004 award (https://web.archive.org/web/20050403010946/http://www.adventuregamers.com/article/id,507/p,2) at Adventure Gamers
- *Apprentice* Deluxe review (http://obsoletegamer.com/apprentice-deluxe/) at Obsolete Gamer

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